

March 2011

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## Volunteers assist with new trout research

The Fisheries Division would like to thank its staff and the numerous volunteers who recently assisted with the marking of brook and rainbow trout at Wolf Creek Hatchery.

The marking event took place on March 8 with volunteers from several trout groups around the state including Louisville Trout Unlimited, Bluegrass Trout Unlimited, Northern Kentucky Fly-Fishers and the Derby City Fly-Fishers. Additionally, volunteers from the Buckeye United Fly-Fishers and Kentucky State University also assisted for the day.

Marking of trout is often an annual event as part of several research projects dealing with trout species in the Lake Cumberland Tailwater. "On March 8, we marked a total of 11,500 brook trout and 26,500 rainbow trout at Wolf Creek Hatchery," states fisheries research biologist Dave Dreves. "The fish were marked by clipping off the adipose fin prior to being stocked in the Lake Cumberland Tailwater."

2011 will mark the first stocking of brook trout into the Lake Cumberland Tailwater. "We are really excited about Wolf Creek Hatchery being able to raise these brook trout and stock them in the tailwater," says Dreves. By stocking brook trout, Dreves now believes anglers will have an additional reason to fish the



Fisheries biologists collect a sample of trout to be taken over to volunteers who will mark the fish by removing the adipose fin. *Cory Woosley photo*

tailwater.

"Anglers will now have the ability to catch the Cumberland River Grand Slam – rainbow, brown, and brook trout. Brook trout have been stocked successfully in several Arkansas tailwaters and their current state record is around 5 lbs.

While we don't yet know how brook trout will do in the Lake Cumberland Tailwater, things seem promising due to

the fact that the fish grew very well at Wolf Creek Hatchery," explains Dreves. The brook trout averaged around 10 inches at the time of marking and plan to be stocked in the upcoming weeks. The current regulation for brook trout in the Lake Cumberland Tailwater is a one fish daily creel with a 15-inch minimum size limit.

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## WE GET MAIL

### *Letters to the Commissioner's Office*

**C**hris Mason, Private Lands Biologist, sent an email about one of our cooperators, Mr. Bill Monin, who passed away last week. Mr. Monin received a Landowner of the Year award in 2006.

Chris said it may seem like a hassle to organize or submit recommendations, but it is very appreciated by the few landowners we can recognize each year. It apparently was important enough to Mr. Monin's family to include the following statement in his obituary. "He (Mr. Monin) loved bird hunting and fly fishing, and the farm that he and his wife, Christine, restored to support fish and wildlife habitat along the Little Barren River in a

project with the Nature Conservancy. Bill was recognized as the 2006 Landowner of the Year for the Southeast Region, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources for this work."

We recently received a letter from the State of Alaska, Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers. Colonel Gary Folger writes, "Alaska Wildlife Troopers would like to extend our appreciation for the assistance your agency has provided to our investigators during a case operation."

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Sgt. Garry Clark with appreciation from Alaska

## Five law enforcement officers receive top statewide awards

**L**aw Enforcement Division is announcing awards to five of its officers who have distinguished themselves through their activity, community involvement and dedication to the conservation and preservation of the hunting, fishing and boating heritage.

The Southeastern Officer of the Year award representing Kentucky went to Sgt. **Rick Mehlbauer** – 3rd District Law Enforcement.

Mehlbauer was selected by the Officer of the Year Committee as the Southeastern Officer of the Year. Mehlbauer was selected on the basis of his public outreach, excellence, attitude, teamwork, achievements, efficiency and innovation, and leadership. During the past year, Mehlbauer conducted 16 K-9 programs, 21 school programs, 1,548 license checks, 553 boat inspections, and filed 64 charges for violations. He also served as a field training officer for three recruits.

The National Association of State Boating Administrators selected Officer **Jerrold Alley** – 9th District Law Enforcement.

Alley was selected by the Officer of the Year Committee as the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators to represent the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Alley cited 106 persons for violating boating safety laws. Eight of those were boating under the influence charges. Alley also issued 38 courtesy notices, spent 492.5 hours working the waterways, and investigated 16 boat accidents. He rescued two persons from the water after responding to an overturned vessel accident.

The Shikar Safari Officer of the Year is Officer **Jarad Northern** – 6th District Law Enforcement.

Northern was selected by the Officer of the Year Committee as the Shikar Safari Officer of the Year. During the past year, Northern checked 1,070 licenses, issued 92 citations and made 106 boat inspections. Some of his notable cases include the following: spotlighting, placement of bait for turkey, hunting without permission, possession of exotic wildlife

and illegal pursuing of a wild turkey.

United Bow Hunters of Kentucky Officer of the Year is Sgt. **Scott Herndon** – 3rd District Law Enforcement.

Herndon was selected by his fellow third District officers to be its UBK Officer of the Year candidate. UBK then selected him during its consideration of the nine district candidates. Herndon was selected for his law enforcement work, his community involvement, and his leadership skills.

The Kentucky Hunter Education Conservation Officer of the Year Award went to Officer **Scott Barrow** – 1st District Law Enforcement.

Barrow was nominated by the regional Hunter Training Officer for this award. Barrow is an excellent hunter education instructor. Barrow recruited volunteers to assist and teach the Hunter Education Course in his area. He also never hesitated to assist the hunter education staff with delivery of equipment and assist with the instruction of courses.



## Phillips, Chocco find gun tossed by fleeing robbers

**F**our adults from Bowling Green are facing first-degree robbery charges and lodged in the Grant County Detention Center, and it was a Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife K-9 team that found the pistol, ski mask and gloves they allegedly used and tossed during their get-away effort on Monday, March 7, near Corinth Lake.

Two men and two women are facing multiple felony charges after the two men entered the Corinth Marathon about 3 a.m. and demanded money. One threatened with a handgun.

They ran from the store, taking money from the cash register, to a waiting 2000 silver Mercury with two females inside on the I-75 northbound ramp.

A customer entering the store during their exit gave chase and called 911. Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Burke stopped the fleeing vehicle near the Dry Ridge exit.

The men confessed their involvement and said they tossed the gun, masks and gloves near the Corinth exit.

Burke quickly called Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Sergeant **Charlie Phillips** and requested assistance from him and his department K-9, **Chocco**.

Phillips and Chocco, an 11-year-old Labrador Retriever, joined Burke and two



other deputies and searched a route from the Marathon Station to I-75 and then alongside the interstate highway for a mile or more toward Corinth Lake. For a while, they found only trash thrown out earlier in the day.

Phillips then took Chocco to the Corinth Lake dam. They were searching the south shoreline when Chocco alerted to something near the guard rail. It was a small pistol with the serial number filed off, ski mask, and pair of gloves. Phillips immediately summoned the deputies to the location.

Department K-9s specialize in locating items such as discarded guns or clothing. They also are trained to find people



who may be lost or hiding and discarded or poached game.

"Our dogs are trained to find guns," said Phillips. "Teamwork will put these felons back behind bars. When it comes to keeping our community safe, we all have a responsibility to help when we can."

## Baglan accepts award for lifejacket awareness

**T**he push to wear lifejackets has received a major show of support. Congratulations go to the Division of Law Enforcement and I&E's **Charlie Baglan**.

At a banquet February 13, they were awarded a Silver ADDY for their radio advertising efforts for the 2010 boating season by the American Advertising Federation, Lexington Chapter.

ADDY awards honor excellence in advertising in all media. This was among the highest awards given in the public ser-

vice category, besting entries including the *Get Ready KY* campaign for the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games.

"The creative thinking of the Information and Education division produced a great product," says Captain Mike Fields, Kentucky boating safety coordinator. "Increasing the wear rate of life jackets has become a national effort in order to reduce the number of deaths on the nation's waterways. What Charlie did with this concept jumps out and rings a bell about

life jackets."

"When people see themselves reflected in a message, you stand a far better chance of making an impact. Don't just show people a pretty picture, show them a mirror," says Baglan. "For the thirty second radio spot entitled, 'Good Swimmer,' we use a common misbelief prevalent in boating, 'I'm a good swimmer. I don't need a lifejacket.' Truth is, when you're hurt, choking, or freezing cold, no one is that good and a lifejacket can save your life."

## Promotions

**Emily Hogue** was recently promoted to Fish and Wildlife Education Administrator at the Salato Center. Emily has worked for Salato as a CEPL-II since March of 2008. She has a BS in Natural Resource Management from UK, attended Basic Police School at the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy, and is currently working on her MS in Environ-

mental Studies at KSU.

She is certified as an NAI Interpretive Guide, Environmental Educator, Basic Archery Instructor, Heart Saver Instructor, and as a Project WET, Flying WILD, and Project Learning Tree Facilitator.

As a Horse Mounted Ranger and interpreter she conducted educational programs and developed the Interpretive Master Plan for the Radnor Lake State Natural Area in Tennessee.

In her new role she will oversee

Salato's educational programming and the development of new permanent and temporary exhibits, and supervise the education staff. She is a natural leader and we expect she will do excellent work.

**Kristy Stroud** recently assumed responsibility for the Native Plant Program, following Mary Carol Cooper's retirement in December. Kristy has served as a CEPL with Salato since April 2007.

See "Promotions," page 8

### "Trout," continued

"We are not sure how long it will take for the brook trout to reach 15 inches, but again, they grew very well in the hatchery and it wouldn't surprise me if some of the fish reach 15 inches during this first year of stocking," says Dreves.

By removing the adipose fin on the brook trout, fisheries research biologists will be able to monitor this year-class of fish to evaluate the success of brook trout stockings in the Cumberland Tailwater.

"We will monitor overall survival, growth rates, and year-class strength of this cohort of fish to determine how well brook trout do in the Lake Cumberland Tailwater. We will plan on sampling for brook trout on a monthly basis to gather information on growth, abundance, and their overall health in the system."

In addition to the brook trout, 26,500 sterile rainbow trout were also marked by removing the fishes adipose fin.

"Sterile rainbow trout have an amazing growth potential because they do not put any energy into reproduction. Therefore all the food they consume goes directly towards growth of body mass," explains Dreves. The recent world record rainbow trout in Canada was recently broken and that fish was determined to be a sterile fish.

"Similar to the research objectives as the brook trout study, the goal of marking these rainbow trout is to evaluate the



Picture of a brook trout having its adipose fin removed. Once removed, the fish is released back into the raceway to be stocked in the Lake Cumberland Tailwater in the upcoming weeks.

*Cory Woosley photo*

overall success of stocking sterile rainbow trout in the Lake Cumberland Tailwater system. We will be monitoring these fish during our normal monthly sampling trips to the tailwater to determine growth rates, abundance, and overall health of marked fish," says Dreves.

Overall, the marking of both species of trout went very well. "I was very impressed with the professionalism and work ethic of both our volunteers and staff," explains Dreves. "Following marking, we test a random sample of trout to evaluate how good the marking is and this year was perfect."

Dave Dreves will be coordinating a second marking effort at Wolf Creek Fish

Hatchery on April 7, 2011. "Anybody who is interested in assisting is more than welcome to meet us at the hatchery. It is always enjoyable to coordinate these events and get help from volunteers who have a passion for trout fishing in Kentucky. It shows what a great partnership the Department has with its various stakeholder groups throughout the state," says Dreves.

For more information about brook trout, rainbow trout, or brown trout fishing in the Lake Cumberland Tailwater, as well as assisting with the upcoming fin clipping, please feel free to contact Dave Dreves (Fisheries Research Biologist) at (502)564-3400 ext. 4469.





## BEAR RESEARCH

"Letting sleeping bears lie" clearly is not one of our wildlife biologists' stronger suits. Wildlife Division and University of Kentucky research students use this time of the year to collar denned black bear females and mark their cubs. *John Brunjes photos*  
Right: Biologist Laura Patton presents a cub for Derek Beard's camera while others tend to its mother.



### “Letters,” continued

“Sergeant **Garry Clark** was contacted by one of our investigators. Sergeant Clark did research and reconnaissance in Kentucky regarding a hunter suspected of wildlife violations in Alaska. He worked with officers from the sheriff’s department for McCracken County during the investigation. They worked with the court system in Kentucky to determine the viability of obtaining search warrants based upon information originating in Alaska. Without your officer, our agency would not have been able to obtain the critical information needed in the case. Your officer should be commended for his efforts.”

Dr. William J. Silvia, professor of Animal and Food Sciences, University of Kentucky wrote to thank the Department for their support of his course Wildlife Biology and Management Applications.

He said, “In particular, I would like to express my appreciation to **Dr. Aaron Hecht**, wildlife veterinarian, for directing our laboratory session on wildlife necropsy here in Lexington on Feb. 3. Dr. Hecht worked with me in advance, preparing a presentation on the purpose and procedures for necropsy in wildlife.

“He emphasized the proper precautions that must be taken to prevent contracting zoonotic diseases. He then demonstrated proper necropsy technique and assisted the students with necropsies of their own specimens. He also described his career path and the function of a veterinarian with the Department of Fish and Wildlife. He is to be commended for his cooperative spirit and professionalism.”

Dr. Silvia also wrote a second letter thanking the Department for hosting his class visit to the Salato Wildlife Education Center in the month of February.

He writes, “In particular, I would like to express my appreciation to **Brent McCarty**, educational officer, and **Laurie Davison**, Director. Laurie hosted our 2009

visit and arranged this year’s visit. Brent was our host this year. He gave us an excellent presentation on the department and the center and then a tour of the facilities. Brent worked with me in advance, re-

searching the answers to questions that the students would ask about the feeding, management and veterinary care for the animals on site. Both are to be commended for their cooperative spirit and professionalism.”

## EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION



Radio dispatch supervisor Barry Stigers helped with grilling and Deputy Commissioner Hank Patton helped in the serving line during last month’s employee appreciation luncheon at headquarters.







## TRAPPING AND BANDING

Annual trapping and banding at Sloughs  
Wildlife Management Area. *John Brunjes photos*





## BURNING FOR WILDLIFE

Wildlife technician Kevin Rexrote lays down the fire during a burn last month at Shaker Village. Below, the fire line climbing the ridge complements the skyline at dusk nicely.

*John Brunjes photos*



### “Promotions,” continued

She had worked closely with Mary Carol over the past three years and was instrumental in the development of educational outreach to schools through teacher-focused programming, the creation of a new resource guide on outdoor classrooms, and participation in many related activities.

Kristy has a BS in Natural Resource Conservation and Management from UK and is working on a Masters in Environmental Science at KSU, as well as working on her Native Plant Certification through

the Kentucky Native Plant Society. She is certified as an NAI Interpretive Guide, Environmental Educator, Basic Archery Instructor, and a CPR and Heart Saver Instructor.

She is very excited about her new duties and already has some great ideas, including encouraging habitat development among landowners who have more property than a back yard, but less than what qualifies for HIP or WHIP grants.

Please congratulate **Pat Barnard** for her recent promotion to HR Branch Manager within the Administrative Services Division. As most of you know, Pat has

been performing and coordinating HR related functions for the department for more than six years and has proven to be both professional and dependable when assisting our workforce with personnel issues.

Pat remains an active member of the Society for Human Resources Management and is well versed in the Personnel Cabinet's current and future systems, applicants' Career Opportunity System (COS), and the department's unique position structure and titles. Pat remains in the same office and stands ready to help should you have any questions.





## WOODCOCK STUDY

EKU grad student Andy Newman is in his third year studying the stopover ecology of American Woodcock in Kentucky. He and wildlife technician Kerri Dikun examine a wing to determine age. He is researching habitats used by migrating woodcock in central Kentucky. *John Brunjes photos*



## NASP student archers honored at state capitol

Archers from the World Champion Anderson County Middle School team joined other student athletes from throughout Kentucky at the state Capitol for recognition of their participation in the National Archery in the Schools Program.

Gov. Steve Beshear lauded the young athletes for their accomplishments at the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) World Invitational Tournament held last October at Disney World in Orlando, Fla. Students received recognition from the governor and legislators on March 1.

Anderson County Middle School won its division in the world competition. Student archers from Bondurant Middle School in Frankfort placed second. Kentucky teams competed against students from across the country as well as several foreign countries, including Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

The NASP organization, founded by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources in 2002, has since been adopted in 47 states and five other countries.

State Sen. Julian Carroll welcomed the student archers to the floor of the Senate chamber. Several senators also rose to recognize individuals and teams from their districts.

House Speaker Greg Stumbo and Rep. Carl Rollins bestowed similar recognition and honors upon the students on behalf of the House as well.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Chairman Steve Glenn praised the department for developing NASP. Ken-



tucky leads the way with 900 participating schools and 200,000 student archers, he noted.

"Teachers tell us that students in archery are better behaved, care more about their grades, are more interested in learning and pay better attention," he said. "NASP is clearly good for the student-teacher relationships and good for schools."

NASP is an Olympic-style target archery program taught during physical education classes. Students in the program learn focus, discipline and practice skills. Teachers report higher attendance by participating students during practice days,

and better attitudes among those students. The archery program, which is now offered in every Kentucky county, is the fastest growing sport in the state.

Teams and students recognized for their achievements at the world competition include:

Anderson County Middle School, world champion team, Middle School Division; Bondurant Middle School, world runner-up team, Middle School Division; Henderson County South Middle School, world 3rd place team, Middle School Division; and Meade County High School, world 3rd place team, High School Division.

Individual award winners include:

Megan Aldridge, Westridge Elementary School (Franklin County); Sherri Bullock, Eubank Elementary School (Pulaski County); Austin Nolen and Cole Blanford, The Frankfort Christian Academy; Clay Stevens and Kaila Cunningham, Trigg County Intermediate School; Shaye Patterson, Trigg County Middle School; Mary Aldridge, Bondurant Middle School (Franklin County); Johnny Edwards, Cody Gardner, Payton Lykins and Maggie Melton, Henderson County South Middle School; Jacob Able and Cameron Peyton, Anderson County Middle School; Lucas Roy, Southern Middle School (Pulaski County); Kayla Dowell, Stuart Pepper Middle School (Meade County); Marissa Eschman, Eastside Middle School (Bullitt County); and Nathan Parcell, Meade County High School.

The NASP state archery tournament is set for March 29 in Louisville.